

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-47 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 20, 21, and 41 are amended and Claims 42-47 are added by the present amendment.

Claim amendments find support in the specification as originally filed, at least at page 12, line 10, to page 13, line 2, and Figure 3D. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 6-8, 19, 40, and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication 2000-077395 to Saito et al. (herein "Saito"); Claims 2-5, 14, 15, 21-28, 34, 35, and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Saito; Claims 9-13 and 29-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of U.S. Patent 6,798,519 to Nishimoto et al. (herein "Nishimoto"); Claims 16-18 and 36-38 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims; and Claim 20 is allowed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claims 16-18 and 36-38, and accordingly, new Claims 42, 43, 45, and 46 are added to recite the features of Claims 16, 17, 36, and 37, respectively, in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in light of statements in the outstanding Office Action, new Claims 42, 43, 45, and 46, and claims depending therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

In addition, Applicants and Applicants' representative thank Examiner McDonald for the courtesy of a personal interview with Applicants' representative on October 4, 2006. Comments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 1, 6-8, 19, 40, and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Saito, with respect to the amended independent claims.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an optical window deposition shield that includes, in part, a backing plate having a through hole, a honeycomb structure, and a coupling device. The honeycomb structure includes, in part, plural adjacent corrugated sheets attached together to form a plurality of adjacent cells in spaces between the adjacent corrugated sheets. The cells are configured to allow optical viewing through the honeycomb structure. Independent Claims 21, 40, and 41 include similar features.

As discussed during the interview, Saito fails to teach or suggest each feature of the amended independent claims. For example, Saito fails to teach or suggest an optical window deposition shield that includes a honeycomb structure comprising plural adjacent corrugated sheets attached together to form a plurality of adjacent cells in spaces between the adjacent corrugated sheets.

Saito describes a plasma processor having a detection window 12 with a first member 21 that has many through holes 22a, a second member 22 which is arranged on the inner side of a processing container 1, and a third member 23d which is provided between the first member 21 and the second member 22.¹ However, Saito fails to teach or suggest any honeycomb structure comprising plural adjacent corrugated sheets, and also fails to teach or suggest any cells formed in spaces between adjacent corrugated sheets. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Saito fails to teach or suggest an optical window deposition shield that includes “a honeycomb structure comprising plural adjacent corrugated sheets attached together to form a plurality of adjacent cells in spaces between the adjacent corrugated sheets,” as recited in Claim 1, and as similarly recited in independent Claims 21, 40, and 41.

¹ Saito at Abstract.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 21, 40, and 41, and claims depending therefrom, patentably define over Saito.

Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of Claims 2-5, 9-15, 21-28, 34, 35, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Saito or Saito and Nishimoto.

Claims 2-5, 9-15, 21-28, 34, 35, and 39 depend from independent Claims 1, 21, 40, or 41, which are believed to patentably define over Saito as discussed above. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Nishimoto also fails to teach or suggest the claimed features lacking in the disclosure of Saito. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested those rejections also be withdrawn.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 20, 21, 40-43, 45, and 46, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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